

History 163: Modern South Asia: From British Imperialism to the Present

Spring 2013 - Mr. Fisher, Rice 314, x58524, michael.fisher@oberlin.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-11:50, Wednesday 10:00-11:50 and by appointment

Class Meets: Tuesday, Thursday 9:00-10:15 with 4th hour discussion session 10:15-10:50.

If you sign up for a 4th credit hour, you must participate in both discussion groups each week. If you sign up for 3 credit hours, you are encouraged to participate in these discussion groups.

South Asia contains today over 1.6 billion people, over one fifth of humanity. For some 5,000 years South Asia has stood as one of the centers of world civilization. Historically known in the West for the richness of its culture and economy, South Asia has undergone the transforming effects of colonialism and globalization. From the mid-18th century until 1947, South Asia remained a central part of the British Empire. As South Asia emerged from the colonial period, it has produced the "new nations" of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in the context of the post-colonial world system. Each of these nations has dealt in distinct ways with issues of identity, the distribution of socio-economic and political power, and development. Two of these new nations have exploded nuclear devices and have fought several wars. By studying the internal developments of the civilizations of South Asia, and their interactions with the West, from the time of British conquest to the present, we will come to understand much about the people of South Asia and also the colonial and post-colonial processes.

Following a general chronological sequence, this course begins with an exploration of the social, economic, and political conditions of South Asia at the beginning of the 18th century. We then analyze India within the context of British imperialism, examining the changes in Indian society, environment, economics, and culture that occurred under British rule. We study developments within Indian and British-Indian society of religion, gender, class, and "untouchability" during the colonial period. The course then surveys the Indian nationalist movement and the coming of the India-Pakistan Partition of 1947. We conclude with an assessment of the current condition of present-day South Asia.

Reading of the required materials, attendance at all classes, taking three in-class essay examinations, and writing one brief (3-5 page) paper are mandatory. There are six paper options available; each person must choose one of these options. Each day late in the paper reduces its grade by 3 points. For those registered for 3 credits, the grade is 25% each for each exam and the paper. Those registered for the 4th credit hour receive 3 points for attendance at each discussion session (plus an extra point for strong contribution to the discussion); grades are based on 20% each for each exam, the paper, and the discussion. Scores: A+ 100-97; A 96-93; A- 92-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D 65-69, F below 65.

Required texts to be purchased:

Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, *Concise History of India, 3rd edition*

Jawaharlal Nehru, *Discovery of India*

Prakash Lal Tandon, *Punjabi Century*

NOTE: Additional required readings are available from **BLACKBOARD**.

ALWAYS BRING THE RELEVANT READINGS WITH YOU TO CLASS

Paper Requirements: Select any one of the following topics, or develop a topic in consultation with Mr. Fisher. Write a 3-5 page paper on that topic, using the full historical methodology (including citation notes, bibliography, and proper spelling and grammar). Each paper is due on

a specified date; last possible due date for topics developed individually and approved by Mr. Fisher is April 25 at 9:00 AM. If you would like Mr. Fisher to read a draft of your paper, it must be in his hands at least one week in advance of the due date.

PLEASE CONSULT WITH MR. FISHER BEFORE WRITING YOUR PAPER

Paper Option One (due February 26 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of any one other source (i.e., not a source from the required readings) on British annexations from Fisher, Politics of the British Annexation (copies available in Mudd or to borrow from Mr. Fisher).

Paper Option Two (due March 7 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of a British "reform" of Indian society of positions (Indian and British) to that "reform." Suggestions: the issues of sati, or education, or public health.

Paper Option Three (due April 9 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of an aspect of village or urban life in South Asia. Suggestion: look at the religious practice, housing patterns, economy, or some other aspect of village or urban life.

Paper Option Four (due May 2 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of an political or social leader in South Asia. Suggestion: select and analyze one aspect of a leader or movement.

Paper Option Five (due May 7 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of an aspect of marriage in South Asia. Suggestion: select one of the required or optional readings and analyze how a marriage works (or does not work).

Paper Option Six (due May 9 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of India's reservation policy. Suggestion: analyze the rhetoric and/or logic of one of the required or recommended readings on reservations.

Accommodation: If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities.

Honor Code: The Honor Code applies to all assignments in this course. This means that any student found cheating, plagiarizing, turning in another person's work as his/her own or otherwise violating the instructor's explicit or implicit instructions will be subject to a hearing before the Student Honor Committee. To learn more about the Code, see the Rules and Regulations Section VI A and B in Fusers or the Student Handbook. (language courtesy of Susan Colley and the Student Honor Code Committee).

Class Meetings

Part 1: Physical, Social, and Political Environments of South Asia (to 1757)

2/5 Introduction: Where is South Asia (at)?

Recommended, browse this major reference work: Schwartzberg, *Historical Atlas* (Ref G 2261.S1H5 1992, Atlas section, Mudd Academic Commons, or older edition in main stacks, super oversize G2261.S1H5 1978);

discussion: What are the various implications of different definitions of our topic?

2/7 South Asian society in context

Required: BLACKBOARD MSARreading1.doc (10 pages) BRING THI READING TO CLASS
discussion : What do religious prescriptions/proscriptions have to do with everyday society?

2/12 South Asian Society and Islamic Empire (1700-1757)

Required: (143 pages): Nehru, *Discovery of India*, read the two chapters entitled: "The Discovery of India" [you can read this quickly or skim if you like] and "New Problems" [which you should read more closely]

Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, read both Prefaces plus Chapter 1

discussion : What are the respective ideological positions of the Metcalfs and Nehru?

Part 2: South Asia and British Colonialism (1757-1857)

2/14 The Transition from Indian to British Rule: the English East India Company, the Mughals, and regional powers: 1757-1857

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSARReading2.doc (17 pages)

Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 2

Consider: Paper Topic Option One (due February 26 at 9:00 AM): Analysis any other one of the primary sources in Fisher, *Politics of the British Annexation* (use library copy or borrow one from Mr. Fisher)

discussion : To what extent can we speak of "the Indians" or "the British" in this period?

2/19 The Structure of East India Company Rule and South Asian Society to 1857

Required: (39 pages): Nehru, *Discovery of India*, first part of Chapter Seven "The Last Phase (1)" [read through section "Contradictions of British Rule"]

Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 3.

discussion : How is British imperialism different from Mughal imperialism?

2/21 British and Indian debates about social "reform"

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSARReading3.doc (14 pages)

Consider Paper Topic Option Two: (due March 7 at 9:00 AM) Analysis of a British "reform" and Indian and British positions on that "reform."

discussion : Should sati have been stopped? If so, by whom?

2/26 The issues of 1857

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSARReading4.doc (3 pages)

Required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, read chapter entitled "The Last Phase (1)"

Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 4.

discussion : What was the significance of 1857?

Paper Option One due at 9:00 AM.

2/27 (Wednesday) Review Session, 7:00-8:00 PM

2/28 Examination I (in class)

Part 3: South Asia and the British Raj (1858-1947)

3/5 The British Raj: The Indian Civil Service

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSARReading5.doc (28 pages)

Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 5.

discussion : Why did Britons go to India?

3/7 The British Raj: A Punjabi Perspective

Required: Tandon, *Punjabi Century*, pp. 9-38.

discussion : Why does Tandon write about Punjab in this way?

Paper Option Two due at 9:00 AM.

3/12 Living under the British Raj

Required: Tandon, *Punjabi Century*, pp. 39-123

discussion : How realistic is Tandon's portrayal of Punjabi life?

Consider Paper Topic Option Three (due April 9 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of an aspect of village or urban life in South Asia.

3/14 Serving under the British Raj

Required: Tandon, *Punjabi Century*, pp. 124-195.

discussion : Why did Indians serve the British?

3/19 Urban Life the British Raj

Required: Tandon, *Punjabi Century*, pp. 196-256

Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 6

discussion : How did urban elites like Tandon and Nehru regard the British?

3/21 no class (class meeting already made up on 2/27)

Spring Break

4/2 Gandhian nationalism

Required: BLACKBOARD *Hind Swaraj* (43 pages)

discussion : What were the costs and/or benefits of British rule over India?

4/4 Nationalisms

Required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, read chapter entitled, "The Last Phase (2)."

Required: BLACKBOARD: (MSAReading6.doc) Amin, "Gandhi as Mahatma" (36 pages)

and/or (MSAReading7.doc) Visweswaran, "Small Speeches, Subaltern Gender" (31 pages)

discussion: What does "nationalism" mean?

4/9 Different models of nation to Partition

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSAReading8.doc (15 pages)

Required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, read chapter entitled "The Last Phase (3)"

Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, Chapter 7.

discussion: How should formal colonialism have ended?

Paper Option Three due at 9:00 AM.

4/10 (Wednesday) Review Session, 7:00-8:00 PM

4/11 Examination II (in class)

Part 4: Independent South Asia (1947-2013)

4/16-18 Independent India (1947-2013)

Required: Nehru, *Discovery of India*, read chapter entitled, "Ahmadnagar Fort Again"

Required: Metcalfs, *Concise History*, read to the end of the book.

discussion questions: (for 4/16) Assess Nehru's legacy. (for 4/18) What does "secularism" mean for India?

Consider Paper Topic Option Four (due May 2 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of any political or social leader in South Asia.

4/23 Gender Relations

Required: Tandon, *Punjabi Century*, pp. 124-156

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSARReading9.doc **and** Sharangpani_Mukta.pdf

Consider Paper Topic Option Five (due May 7 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of an aspect of marriage in South Asia.

discussion : Should marriages be "arranged"? Why or why not; by and for whom?

4/25 Reservations and Vote Banks

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSARReading10.doc (21 pages)

Consider Paper Topic Option Six (due May 9 at 9:00 AM): Analysis of India's reservation policy.

discussion : Should there be "quotas" for entry into college, employment, and/or promotion? If so, what should they be based on?

4/30 Self-Employed Women's Association

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSARReading11.doc (9 pages)

discussion : Why does SEWA work?

5/2-7 Independent Pakistan (1947-2013)

Required: BLACKBOARD: MSARReading12.doc (12 pages)

discussion : What should Islam mean for Pakistan?

Paper Option Four due 5/2 at 9:00AM

Paper Option Five due 5/7 at 9:00AM.

5/9 Independent Bangladesh (1971-2013)

Required: BLACKBOARD: Yunus_Muhammad.pdf (17 pages) and/or Mannan_Manzurul.pdf (15 pages) and/or Karim.pdf (25 pages).

discussion : How is Bangladesh different from Pakistan or India?

Paper Option Six due at 9:00AM.

5/13 (**Monday**) **11:00-noon** review session

5/16 (Thursday) 2:00-4:00 Final Examination (as scheduled by Registrar).